

SOURCES AND METHODS
FOR AFRICAN HISTORY
AND CULTURE

ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF
ADAM JONES

Edited by
Geert Castryck, Silke Strickrodt
and Katja Werthmann

The conversation with sources is at the heart of the historical profession. Men and women of past times have left messages and traces in a variety of forms – orally transmitted, written, material, visual etc. Men and women of today try to interpret these sources in an attempt to understand human action in its historical context. What may, at first sight, seem like a straightforward dialogue between source and historian, hardly ever is. Neither the messages and traces, nor the historical interpretation, nor the availability and accessibility of the source itself turn out to be self-evident. This volume provides practical examples of and methodological reflections on working with sources for African history and culture. It includes cases from across the continent, from pre-colonial times to the present, from history and other disciplines drawing on the conversation with sources, and it includes transregional relations, conceptual reflections and attention for politics of history. The organization of the volume reflects the research interests of Adam Jones and underscores that his academic trajectory provides a relevant backdrop for a volume about the use of sources and methods for African history and culture.

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